



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: The citizens of our state and nation live in freedom because of the contributions and personal sacrifices made by the brave men and women who have served and are now serving in the Armed Forces; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia remains committed to providing our soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, and coastguardsmen with the resources needed to ensure their physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS: Hundreds of thousands of our servicemen and women have been clinically diagnosed with post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI). Nationwide, an estimated 7.7 million Americans are affected by PTSI; and
- WHEREAS: PTSI may develop after an individual has experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as combat, physical assault, vehicle accidents, abuse, or natural disasters, among others; and
- WHEREAS: Symptoms of PTSI may include flashbacks accompanied by a rapid heartbeat or excessive sweating, hypervigilance, nightmares, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts; and
- WHEREAS: Although historically viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing condition, PTSI is a common brain injury that is both treatable and repairable following a traumatic event; and
- WHEREAS: In addition, the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" reinforces the stigma previously associated with the injury and may therefore discourage those affected from seeking proper treatment; and
- WHEREAS: Increased awareness of PTSI is necessary to diminish the stigma associated with the injury and provide more effective treatment options, while also preventing further suicides among affected individuals; and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Defense, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and the National Institute of Mental Health have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSI and its symptoms. All individuals affected by PTSI deserve recognition, and those who received such wounds in service to our nation have earned our utmost respect and eternal gratitude; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 2018 as POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH and June 27, 2018, as POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF